

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 L-03 OES-07 AGRE-00  
LAB-04 SIL-01 HEW-06 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05  
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INRE-00 NEAE-00 /083 W  
-----011989 081234Z /50

O 081127Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4434  
HUD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TEHRAN 7981

HUD FOR OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS-ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ECRE, USIRJC  
SUBJ: HOUSING WORKING GROUP-PROPOSAL FOR OCTOBER MEETING

REF: HANCOCK-SIMONIAN LETTER JULY 5, 1977

1. STATUS REPORT: LETTER FROM UNDER SECRETARY SIMONIAN ADDRESSED TO COUNSELOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 1. QTE.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF JULY 13 1977 AND THE ENCLOSED LETTER FROM MRS. HANCOCK. MRS. HANCOCK'S PROPOSAL IN REFERENCE TO A MEETING IN CHICAGO AND WASHINGTON BETWEEN IRANO-AMERICAN HOUSING GROUPS IN SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR IS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND WE WILL INFORM YOU AS SOON AS WE CAN. END QTE.

2. BACKGROUND: MRS. HANCOCK'S LETTER WAS HAND DELIVERED JULY 13 UNDER COVER OF EMBASSY LETTER REQUESTING ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND REPLY AT EARLIEST CONVENIENCE, WITH COPIES TO USIRJC COORDINATOR VAFA IN MEAF. DESPITE NUMEROUS TELEPHONE INQUIRIES, NO RESPONSE WAS RECEIVED PRIOR TO END OF AUGUST. WE NOTE,  
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HOWEVER, THAT THEN-MINISTER, UNDER SECRETARY SIMONIAN AND SEVERAL OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS WRE OUT OF IRAN. CABINET CHANGES AUGUST 7 (REPORTED TEHRAN 07043) BROUGHT SIMONIAN BACK FROM HOLIDAYS EARLY BUT PRESS OF ACQUAINTING NEW MINISTER TOWFIQU PRECLUDED ACCESS.

3. EMBOFF FINALLY TALKED DIRECTLY WITH SIMONIAN LATTER PART OF

AUGUST AND HE INDICATED THAT MATTER WOULD BE TAKEN UP SHORTLY WITH NEW MINISTER. SIMONIAN DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO TRAVEL TO THE US BEFORE NOVEMBER IN VIEW OF MINISTERIAL CHANGES AND HIS EXTENDED TRAVELS ALREADY IN THE YEAR. HE CONVEYED IMPRESSION THAT, ALTHOUGH RECEPTIVE IN PRINCIPLE, WORKING OUT VISIT WOULD BE DIFFICULT. NEXT WORK RECEIVED WAS TEXT OF LETTER CITED PARA 1.

4. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT SEVERAL IRANIAN OFFICIALS ARE ATTENDING THE 14TH WORLD CONGRESS OF INTERNATIONAL UNIONS OF BUILDING SOCIETIES AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS IN SAN FRANCISCO (SEPTEMBER 4-9). UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH AND PLANNING VAHIDI (MINISTR6); MANAGING DIRECTOR HOUSING ORGANIZATION ARDESHIR AZARPAY (RECENTLY TOOK OFFICE); MANAGING DIRECTOR MASOUD AHARI, MORTGAGE BANK; AND MANAGING DIRECTOR ALI-REZA RADPAY, CONSTRUCTION BANK, ARE REPORTEDLY ATTENDING, WITH ALL ARRANGEMENTS MADE THROUGH AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI. (HUD MAY WISH TO MAKE CONTACT)

5. COMMENT: AS YOU AND WE RECALL FROM EFFORTS IN 1976, GOI HAS BEEN VERY RELUCTANT TO FUND ANY TRIPS TO US FOR USIRJC-RELATED MEETINGS INDEPENDENT OF OTHER REASONS FOR WHICH RELEVANT OFFICIALS MAY HAVE FOR TRAVELING. SIMONIAN'S STATEMENT THAT HE IS UNLIKELY TO BE ABLE TO TRAVEL WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE TAKEN AS TACIT NOTIFICATION THAT GOI HOUSING REPS WILL NOT TRAVEL TO US PRIOR TO NOVEMBER COMMISSION MEETING, ESPECIALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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SINCE HOUSING COMMITTEE REPS WOULD NEED TO JOIN FULL COMMISSION DELEGATION AT THAT TIME. SIMONIAN DID OFFER COMMENT, HOWEVER, THAT MINISTRY WOULD NEED TO SHOW SOME ACTION IN PREPARATION FOR NOVEMBER MEETING. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT THIS MIGHT BE, HE DID INTIMATE THAT WE MIGHT SEE SOME MOVEMENT ON PENDING PROPOSALS. HE DID STATE FRANKLY THAT ADVENT OF NEW MINISTER HAD (UNDERSTANDABLY) MADE NECESSARY A REVIEW OF PENDING PROPOSALS/LETTERS OF INTENT. SEVERAL PROJECTS HAVE BEEN "ON THE VERGE" OF SIGNATURE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS (SUCH AS DILLON FOR IMPERIAL GUARD, A LEVITT-AFFILIATED PROPOSAL, AND SEVERAL LESSER PROJECTS) AND A NEW MINISTER'S REVIEW, COUPLED WITH PRESSURE TO SHOW SOMETHING FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING MAY SERVE TO MOVE THOSE PROJECTS ALONG FASTER THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE THE CASE. SIMONIAN HAZES THAT PERHAPS ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE MENTIONED PARA 3 COULD HAVE BEEN COORDINATED WITH WORKING GROUP MEETING. LIKELIHOOD IS THAT TIMING OF CONFERENCE FITTED IN BETTER WITH PARTICIPANTS HOLIDAY PLANS AND THAT FUNDING WAS PROVIDED PRIVATELY OR FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN THOSE ALLOCATED TO JOINT COMMISSION TRAVEL. SUBJECT MATTER OF CONFERENCE SELECTED FOR ATTENDANCE IS AN EXCELLENT SIGN, HOWEVER IN THAT BY AGREEMENT IN PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP, MORTGAGE FINANCING IS A CRUCIAL

FACTOR TO DEVELOPMENT OF A SOUND HOUSING INDUSTRY IN IRAN.  
ATTENDANCE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS AT THIS CONFERENCE,  
DESPITE THEIR RELUCTANCE TO STAGE PROPOSED MORTGAGE FINANCE  
SEMINAR IN IRAN WITH US ASSISTANCE LAST YEAR, INDICATE THAT  
GOI MAY BE BEGINNING TO ADDRESS ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS IN HOUSING  
FIELD.  
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## Message Attributes

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